

FISCAL NOTE

Bill #: HB0259

Title: Authorize civil unions for unmarried couples

Primary Sponsor: Kaufmann, C

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor signature	Date	David Ewer, Budget Director	Date
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Fiscal Summary

	<u>FY 2006 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2007 Difference</u>
Expenditures:		
General Fund	\$1,931	\$1,841
Revenue:		
General Fund	\$78,650	\$69,575
Net Impact on General Fund Balance:	\$76,719	\$67,734

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Local Gov. Impact | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Concerns |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Included in the Executive Budget | <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Long-Term Impacts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated Revenue Form Attached | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Needs to be included in HB 2 |

Fiscal Analysis

ASSUMPTIONS:

Judiciary

1. The Judicial Branch is unable to estimate the number of civil union licenses that will be requested in Montana by residents or non-residents. The Judicial Branch is unable to estimate the number of civil union licenses that will be requested to be certified by District Court Judges.
2. The Judicial Branch is unable to estimate the number of proceedings that will be held in District Courts related to the dissolution of civil unions.
3. The Judicial Branch is unable to estimate the number of proceedings that will be held to determine facts and to order issuance of delayed certificates of civil union.

Department of Health and Human Services

4. Sections seven and eight of this bill requires the department to prescribe, develop and provide civil union application, license and certificate forms to all clerks of district courts. Three forms are required to be developed: an application, license and a certificate of union.
5. Development of these forms will be absorbed within existing program resources.
6. It is estimated that there will be 2,600 civil unions in FY 2006 and 2,300 in FY 2007.

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(continued)

7. It is estimated to cost \$0.10 per form to print these forms. Total estimate printing costs are \$780 in FY 2006 and \$690 in FY 2007.
 - a. FY 2006 - 2600 civil unions x \$0.10 x 3 forms = \$780
 - b. FY 2007 - 2300 civil unions x \$0.10 x 3 forms = \$690
8. There are 63 courts in Montana. It is estimated to cost \$3.00 to mail one packet of forms to one court. It is estimated to cost \$189 in FY 2006 and \$189 in FY 2007 to mail these forms to the courts.
 - a. FY 2006 - 63 x \$3.00 = \$189
 - b. FY 2007 - 63 x \$3.00 = \$189
9. It is estimated the department will need to mail 1,300 letters with prepaid return envelopes requesting additional information or to clarify data provided on the application form. It is estimated that this will cost \$0.74 per letter, \$0.37 to mail the letter and \$0.37 for a pre-paid envelope for requested information. It is estimated that this will cost \$962 in FY 2006 and \$962 in FY 2007.
 - a. FY2006 – 1,300 letters x \$0.74 = \$962
 - b. FY2007 – 1,300 letters x \$0.74 = \$962
10. It is assumed that these costs will be 100 percent general fund.

Office of Budget and Program Planning

11. Section 8 requires that applicants for a civil union pay the fees applicable for a marriage license. These are the \$30 license fee required by MCA, 40-1-202 and the \$0.25 filing fee required by MCA, 50-15-301. These fees are forwarded to the state and deposited in the general fund. Revenue will be \$78,650 in FY 2006 (2,600 x \$30.25) and \$69,575 in FY 2007 (2,300 x \$30.25).

FISCAL IMPACT:

Department of Health and Human Services

	<u>FY 2006 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2007 Difference</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>		
Operating Expenses	\$1,931	\$1,841
<u>Funding of Expenditures:</u>		
General Fund (01)	\$1,931	\$1,841
<u>Revenues:</u>		
General Fund (01)	\$78,650	\$69,575
<u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures):</u>		
General Fund (01)	\$76,719	\$67,734

EFFECT ON COUNTY OR OTHER LOCAL REVENUES OR EXPENDITURES:

This legislation will have an impact on counties as the civil union licenses will be issued and processed by District Court Clerk's Offices that are county funded.